

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A driveshaft comprising two constant velocity universal joints and an intermediate shaft;

one of the constant velocity universal joints ~~(11)~~ comprises an outer joint part ~~(12)~~ with first ball tracks ~~(14)~~ which form first angles of intersection with the joint axis ~~(A)~~, an inner joint part ~~(17)~~ with second ball tracks ~~(18)~~ which form second angles of intersection with the joint axis ~~(A)~~, balls ~~(19)~~ which run in pairs of tracks comprising a first ball track ~~(14)~~ and a second ball track ~~(18)~~, and a first cage ~~(20)~~ which holds the balls ~~(19)~~ in a common plane ~~(E)~~, wherein the first and second angles of intersection of the ball tracks ~~(14, 18)~~ of a pair of tracks each are identical in size and are positioned symmetrically relative to the joint axis ~~(A)~~ and wherein the first ball cage ~~(20)~~ is axially fixed in the constant velocity joint;

the intermediate shaft comprises a longitudinal plunging unit ~~(41)~~ having a sleeve ~~(42)~~ with first ball grooves ~~(43)~~ which extend axially, a journal ~~(44)~~ with second ball grooves ~~(45)~~ which extend axially, balls ~~(46)~~ which are held in groups in pairs of grooves each comprising a first ball groove ~~(43)~~ and a second ball groove ~~(45)~~, and a second cage ~~(47)~~ which holds the balls ~~(46)~~ at a fixed distance from one another, and
wherein the first ball cage includes an inner cylindrical guiding face in which the inner joint part is held radially.

2. (currently amended) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the first ball cage ~~(20)~~ comprises ~~an inner cylindrical guiding face (31) in which the inner joint part (17) is held radially, and~~ a spherical outer face ~~(39)~~ which is held axially and radially between first and second annular stop faces ~~(26, 27)~~ of the outer joint part ~~(12)~~.

3. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the first ball cage ~~(20)~~ comprises ~~an inner cylindrical guiding face (31) in which the inner joint part (17) is held radially, and~~ a spherical outer face ~~(39)~~ which is held radially in an inner cylindrical guiding face ~~(25)~~ of the outer joint part ~~(12)~~, wherein the inner joint part ~~(17)~~ is supported in a first direction ~~(R1)~~ on an annular stop face ~~(32)~~ in

the first ball cage and wherein the first ball cage (20) is supported in a second axial direction (R2) on a second annular stop face (27) in the outer joint part (12).

4. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the first ball cage (20) comprises ~~an inner cylindrical guiding face (31) in which the inner joint part (17) is held radially,~~ and a spherical outer face (39) which is held radially in an inner cylindrical guiding face (25) of the outer joint part (12), wherein the first ball cage is supported in a first axial direction (R1) on a first annular stop face (26) in the outer joint part (12) and wherein the inner joint part (17) is supported in a second axial direction (R2) on a second annular stop face (33) in the first ball cage (20).

5. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the first ball cage (20) comprises ~~an inner cylindrical guiding face (31) in which the inner joint part (17) is held radially,~~ and a spherical outer face (39) which is held radially in an inner cylindrical guiding face (25) of the outer joint part (12), wherein the inner joint part (17) is supported in a first axial direction (R1) on an annular stop face (32) in the first ball cage and in a second axial direction (R2) on a radial end face (36) of the outer joint part (12).

6. (currently amended) A driveshaft according to claim 2, wherein the outer joint part (12) comprises an annular part (13) forming the first stop face (26) and an inner cylindrical guiding face (25) for supporting an outer face of the first ball cage (20), and a base part (15) in which there is formed the second stop face (27).

7. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 6, wherein the base part (15) is a plate metal cover (29).

8. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 2, wherein the outer joint part (12) comprises an annular part (13) in which there is formed an inner cylindrical guiding face (25) for supporting an outer face of the first ball cage (20), an attaching cap (16) in which there is formed the first stop face (26), and a base part (15) in which there is formed the second stop face (27).

9. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 8, wherein the base part ~~(15)~~ is a plate metal cover ~~(29)~~.

10. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 3, wherein the outer joint part ~~(12)~~ comprises an annular part ~~(13)~~ in which there is formed the inner cylindrical guiding face ~~(25)~~, and a base part ~~(15)~~ in which there is formed the second stop face ~~(27)~~.

11. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 4, wherein the outer joint part ~~(12)~~ comprises an annular part ~~(13)~~ in which there is formed the inner cylindrical guiding face ~~(25)~~, and an attaching cap ~~(16)~~ in which there is formed the first stop face ~~(26)~~.

12. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 2, wherein the inner joint part ~~(17)~~ comprises a spherical outer face ~~(28)~~.

13. (currently amended) A driveshaft according to claim 2, wherein an outer face of the inner joint part comprises a spherical portion ~~(28)~~ and two conical end regions ~~(37, 38)~~.

14. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the journal ~~(44)~~ and inner joint part ~~(17)~~ are integrally formed.

15. (currently amended) A driveshaft according to claim 1, wherein the journal ~~(44)~~ is hollow.

16. (currently amended) A driveshaft according to claim 15, wherein the journal ~~(44)~~ is fixed to the inner joint part ~~(17)~~ by friction welding.

17. (currently amended-rejoined) A driveshaft according to claim 5, wherein the inner joint part ~~(17)~~ includes a central stop member ~~(35)~~ for acting against the radial end face ~~(36)~~ of the outer joint part ~~(12)~~.